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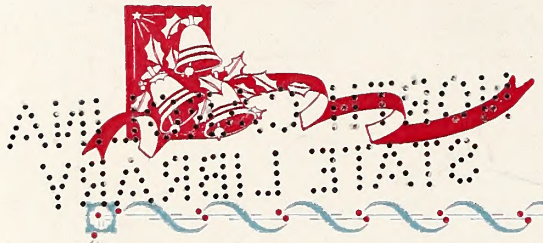

Greetings

CHRISTMASTIDE commemorates the greatest Spiritual Gift of all time, and the promise of peace and good will to a turbulent world.

Another great gift–a material one–is our natural resources. There can be no peace on earth,–no good will among men–until all have learned to use these resources wisely.

We have come to the end of another year, a year of many successes and some failures. Some of our ambitions have been realized; new ones have been resolved. We go forward into the new year with a feeling of deep gratitude to you who have helped make the past year a successful one, knowing that with your continued help the coming year will be even more successful.

May we take this opportunity to express to one and all our sincere wishes for a

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

and its

Entire Staff

Wildlife IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Official Publication of The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh

A monthly magazine devoted to the protection and restoration of our Wildlife Resources and to the improvement of hunting and fishing in North Carolina

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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Governor

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COVER

The mallard duck is one of the most picturesque and toothsome of waterfowl. Fortunately, for sportsmen who seek after them, they are one of the most abundant species.

★ ★ ★

Wildlife in North Carolina recognizes the need for close cooperation between State and Federal conservation agencies and the people who hunt and fish—to bring about a restoration of our renewable resources. The Editor gratefully receives for publication all news items, articles, photographs, and other material dealing with the various activities which combine to make North Carolina a better state for hunting and fishing. Full credit is given for all material published.

★ ★ ★

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Next month we plan to begin a section devoted to the many junior wildlife clubs which are being organized in schools throughout the state under the inspiration and leadership of Miss Lunette Barber who is sponsoring such activities.

ROD AMUNDSON, *Editor*

LET'S LEARN ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE

The Eleventh of a Series on The Wildlife Species of North Carolina

THE MUSKRAT

THE MUSKRAT IS THE NATION'S AND THE STATE'S MOST VALUABLE FUR-BEARING ANIMAL.

HISTORY

FROM the marshes of Louisiana and the Rio Grande to the swamp lands of Alaska, the muskrat is by far the most important fur-bearing animal in America. Although the individual pelt does not market at anything like the price paid for mink, muskrats are so numerous and so easily trapped that their total value far exceeds the worth of any other furbearer.

Altogether there are 14 recognized species of muskrats in the North American continent, and the species resident in North Carolina is the Virginia muskrat, *Ondatra zibethica macrodon*. The Tar Heel variety is the largest member of the muskrat group, and large, prime furs command the highest market prices.

The muskrat is typically a North American animal, occurring nowhere else in the world except in Western Europe where attempts at transplanting have been made. Many years ago visitors from the low countries conceived the idea of transplanting muskrats to the canals of the Holland lowlands, with the idea in mind that an ideal habitat existed there, and an important source of income could be derived from the species. As so frequently happens when a wildlife species is transported to a new environment, muskrats in Europe became pests. They maintained their astounding powers of reproduction, but the furs of the foreign animals degenerated to worthless pelts, unfit for use as wearing apparel. At the same time the rats invaded dikes and waterways, causing untold damage to water control structures.

DESCRIPTION

Muskrats are typical rats, adapted to living in and near water. They are thick-bodied animals with long scaly tails. The hind feet are partially webbed as an adaptation for swimming, and the tail is flat from side to side in cross-section. The eyes are small and inconspicuous, and the ears barely protrude from the thick fur. The teeth are typical of the rodent group, being well-adapted to gnawing.

The fur is composed of two layers, the inner coat being short and compact, with glossy outer guard hairs forming the second layer. When the guard hairs have been plucked from a pelt it resembles nothing so much as the fur of the fur seal. Plucked and dyed, muskrat skins may appear in the furriers window as Hudson seal.

There is a great deal of variation in size among individuals, but adult animals in the North Carolina marshes may reach a length of two feet. There is no difference in coloration between sexes, both being a dark cinnamon buff with more pale underparts.

CHARACTERISTICS

Muskrats are among the most pugnacious of animals. Although they get along very well with other wild residents of the marshes, they engage in frequent battles among themselves. This is one important reason why muskrats have never been raised successfully in pens.

The person who has the time and the patience to watch muskrats go about their daily living has a treat in store. Muskrats are very near-sighted, and one has only to steal up quietly to the shore of a marsh where muskrats are working and seat him-

self in a comfortable position. On a still day it is possible to drift into a group of muskrats in a small boat and watch them closely. Thus he can go about watching the animals perform their daily tasks, the major activity of which is feeding. Contact between individuals not of the same family almost invariably results in a vicious, bloody battle.

FOOD HABITS

The diet of muskrats is a complete index of the vegetations growing about their watery environment. They are invariably found living in or near water, and their food is taken from the abundance of vegetation at hand. Roots, tubers, leaves, and stems of aquatic vegetation are preferred items of food, but these by no means compose the entire diet. Muskrats will forage far away from water to take grass, agricultural crops, and other vegetation. Where there was a shortage of water plants, muskrats have been observed cutting and eating small willow saplings.

The hind feet of muskrats are nearly webbed with stiff hairs which are an aid to swimming.

In addition to vegetable matter, muskrats are fond of fish, snails, small clams, frogs, and even crayfish. Animal matter is a relatively unimportant part of the menu, however.

Being excellent swimmers, both on and under the surface, muskrats take much of their food from the bottom of the pond or marsh. They dive to the bottom to cut off a choice bullrush or cattail, and bring it to the surface to be eaten. Usually only the more tender part of the stalk is left floating on the water. This fact brings about a phenomenon which has caused some argument among observers—whether muskrats deliberately construct rafts of floating vegetation on which they may sit to sun themselves and feed safe from predatory enemies. At any rate, a single muskrat may make several dozens of trips to the bottom of the water for fresh bullrush stalks, eat the tender part and leave the rest floating on the surface. Where this occurs in a small area, the abandoned stalks become a raft bouyant enough to support the feeding muskrat. Once a raft is formed it may be visited day after day and used as a dinner table or a sun porch. The muskrat may change his taste and begin diving for snails, using the raft as an eating place.

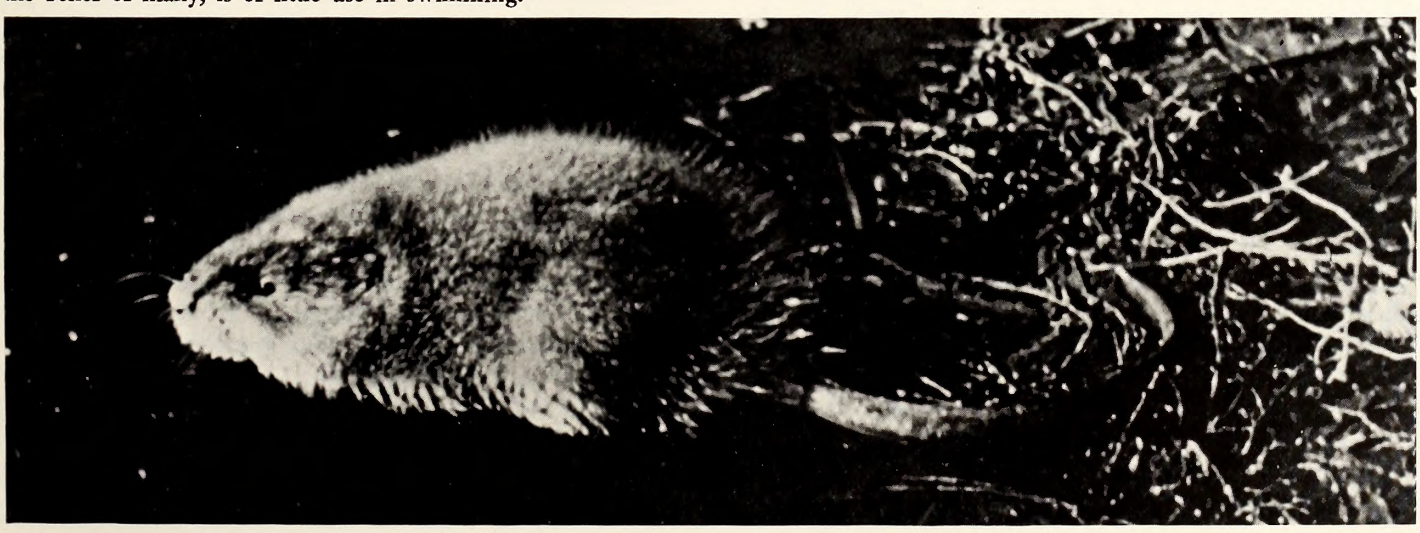
Unlike beavers and many other rodents, muskrats do not deliberately store away food for future use. Even in climates where the marsh freezes over, there is usually an abundant source of water plant roots and stems which the animals may dive for and devour.

BREEDING HABITS

Muskrats are extremely adaptable to their immediate environment, and will set up housekeeping according to the situation at hand. In sluggish streams or in ponds with steep sides, muskrats dig elaborate burrows into the banks.

Bank burrows, or dens, invariably have an opening under the surface of the water whereby the animals can swim under water to gain entrance undetected by their enemies. The burrow rises

Muskrats are typical rats, but have a flat tail, which, despite the belief of many, is of little use in swimming.



W.R.C. Biologists Critcher and Barber examine muskrat food plants.

above the surface of the water and may extend several feet or yards back into the bank. A large nest chamber is excavated, and this may be connected to another tunnel reaching to the surface of the ground to provide ventilation and frequent access to terrestial food.

Muskrats are notorious builders of houses. Like the lodges of beavers, muskrat houses being with a fixture of vegetation and mud at the bottom of the pond. The structure is continually added to until it rises several feet above the surface of the water. At first it is a solid mass of roots, reeds, rushes, other vegetation, and liberal quantities of mud. Once the house has risen to a height considered adequate by the builders, they begin the task of tunneling into the house from beneath the surface of the water, and hollowing out living chambers. A single house may have several entrances and several chambers. During winter months the house-building materials become a source of food, since they are the same plants the animals feed on. A lazy muskrat has merely to roll over on his side and pull a lath from the wall, so to speak, and enjoy a good meal. Muskrat houses are one-year enterprises. House construction begins in late summer, and the houses are usually abandoned the following summer.

As has been mentioned before, muskrats are extremely prolific. A single female may produce from three to five litters of young per year, and each litter may contain from four to twelve young. Occasionally the first litter of the spring may produce young before they are a year old. It should be pointed out, however, that such an occurrence is rare and some biologists doubt it altogether. At any rate, the volume of reproduction among muskrats varies according to their habitat. In ideal conditions muskrats will produce a maximum of young, and fewer in less suitable habitat.

Muskrat kits are born with a bluish pelage which later turns to the characteristic brown as the animals grow older. They reach maturity within about eight months. The mammary glands of female muskrats are not highly developed. Suckling young attach their mouths to hairs at the opening of the milk glands rather than to teats as in the case of most other mammals. Lack of developed nipples gives rise to a belief among trappers that muskrats do not suckle their young.

Family life among muskrats is a sketchy affair. As soon as the young are weaned they are left to fend for themselves to a great extent. There is some evidence of parent animals feeding their young with choice items of food. but such activity is rather haphazard.

Raccoons are among the enemies of the muskrat. Above is a muskrat house torn apart by raccoons.

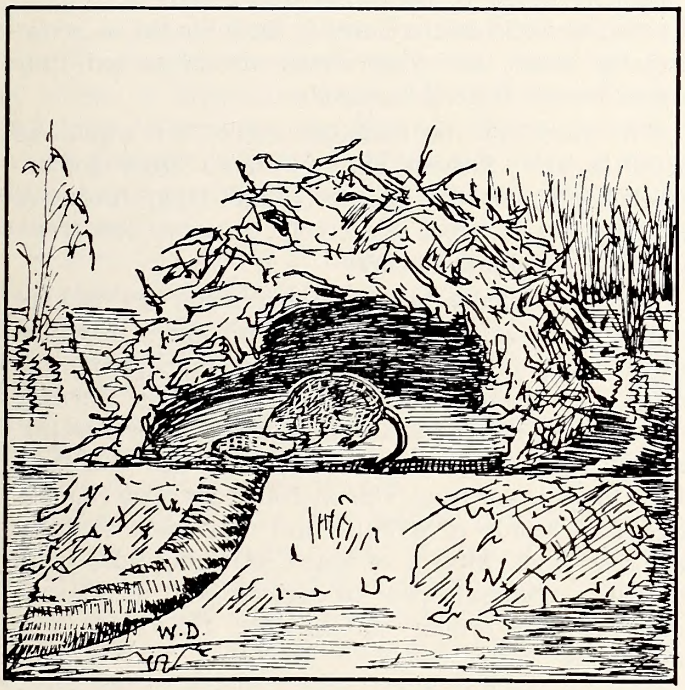
ENEMIES

Because muskrats are confined to watery habitat, their greatest enemies are drouth and floods. Flash floods may destroy houses, kill litters of young, and otherwise upset the routine of living for animals. Drouth, however, is a far greater hazard. During the dustbowl years muskrats entirely disappeared from vast marsh areas where they had once been abundant. Where small ponds or marshes dry up, muskrats may migrate several miles to find water. Such migrations were often futile in the dustbowl region.

Since North Carolina receives an abundance of rainfall, there is little danger of drouth seriously affecting muskrat populations. Another blessing to North Carolina muskrats is the fact that most of them occur along the coastal marshes where an adequate supply of water is assured at mean sea level.

A number of winged and four footed predators take a toll of muskrats. These include foxes, mink, raccoons, eagles, certain hawks, and occasionally crows. Otters are blamed for much damage to muskrats, but thus far there has been little concrete evidence to support this theory.

Botulism (duck sickness) has been known to affect muskrats, and there have been outbreaks from time to time of tularemia (rabbit sickness). In addition to these diseases are several internal and



The interior of a muskrat house. Note the hollowed-out chamber and the under-water entrance passage.

external parasites, but these latter cause little discomfort or serious effect.

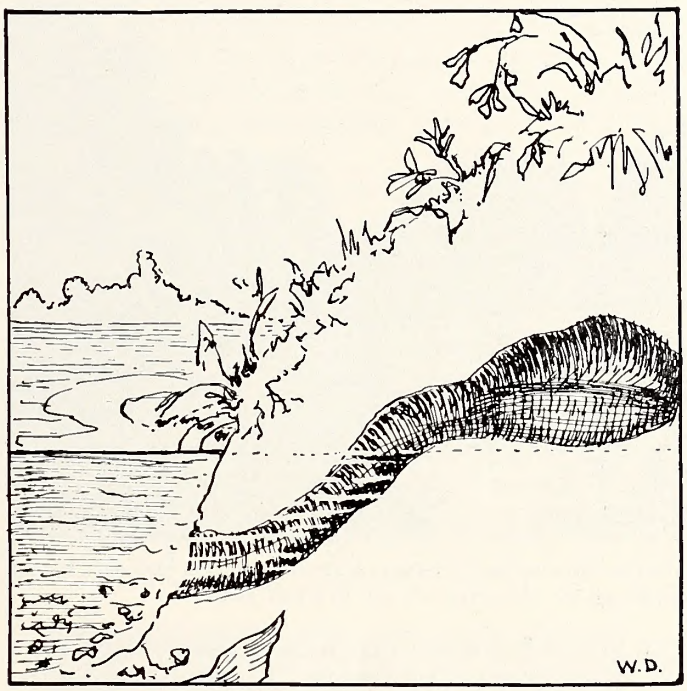
MANAGEMENT

Muskrat management in North Carolina has come in for a great deal of attention in recent years. There are thousands of acres of coastal marshes which produce an important crop of muskrats each year, but there are other thousands of acres which apparently could be producing muskrats in abundance but are not doing so. The problem for research workers and game managers is to determine what measures can be taken to add to the total wealth of the state by improving these marsh conditions.

Muskrats frequently invade artificially impounded waters. This fact gives rise to a great deal of concern by the owners of the lakes or ponds. The animals' habit of denning into dams often causes leakages which result in the loss of the dam and the water backed up behind it. In such cases it is necessary to remove the muskrats entirely, or to face the dam with rocks or masonry to prevent burrowing.

Management of muskrats ties in closely with waterfowl management. Frequently there is competition between the two forms for food, and game managers must decide which species is to be favored. On the other hand, the introduction of muskrats to marshes so thickly grown with vegetation as to entirely exclude open water has resulted in cropped-out areas where waterfowl may rest and breed.

In the over-all picture, where there is an adequate supply of suitable muskrat habitat, muskrat management resolves to a matter of harvesting an annual crop with an eye to leaving plenty of breeding stock for the following year.



Muskrats denning in banks always use an under-water passage. The nest chamber lies above water level. There may be other openings for ventilation.

Mink will be discussed next month, and a more technical article on muskrats will discuss muskrat management in North Carolina.

Heifer is the modern spelling of two Anglo-Saxon words, heah-fear, meaning "high ox," as the heifer seems to stand up extraordinarily high on her legs compared to a grown cow.

WILDLIFE in the SMALL WOODLAND

By EDWARD H. GRAHAM

Reprinted from the 1949 Yearbook of Agriculture

Most small woodlands border on farm land. It is here that border plantings are of greater service to small game.

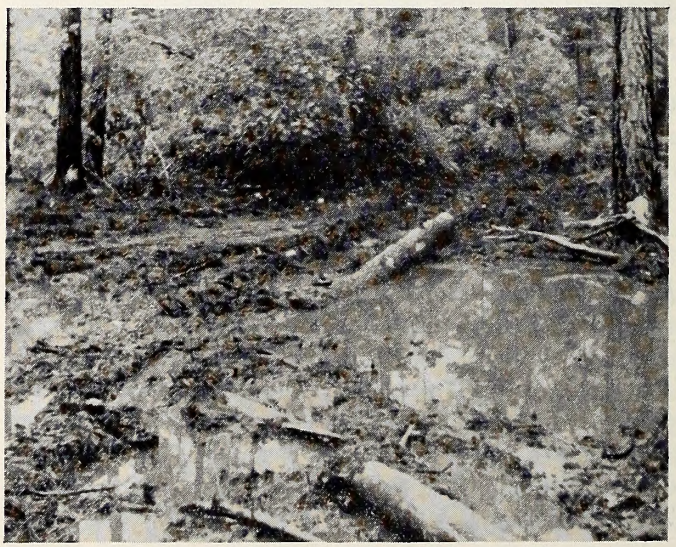
SMALL woodlands are natural homes for such valuable fur bearers as the skunk, opossum, mink, raccoon, fox, and weasel. Among game animals, woodlands harbor squirrels of various kinds, woodcock, ruffed grouse, rabbit, and snipe. Fox and raccoon provide sport as well as pelts. In the woods also live flying squirrels, chipmunks, pocket gophers, mice, and other forest rodents. Song and insect-eating birds are abundant—the thrushes, warblers, woodpeckers, and nuthatches, kinglets, and whip-poorwills. Predators, hawks and owls, live in the woods and feed upon insects, snakes, frogs, and small vertebrates.

Many kinds of wildlife that live in woodlands are found nowhere else. When the woodland is harmed or destroyed, these creatures become fewer or disappear. To protect the useful and beautiful wild things of the woodlands, we must first protect their woodland homes, where they get food, shelter, a place to breed and hide and live.

The things to do to help woodland wildlife are much the same as the rules to be followed in growing the trees, for when trees are protected they make homes for wild animals.

The rules for the management of the woodland wildlife are: Protect the woodland from uncontrolled fire, protect the woodland from intensive grazing, cut the trees selectively, preserve den, trees, develop woodland borders.

Wildlife usually benefits most when fire is kept out of the woodland. In the few instances in which fire is employed as a tool in forest management, it must be carefully supervised. Reckless burning destroys cover that is used by wildlife for nesting, escape from enemies, roosting, and other purposes vital to their survival. Uncontrolled fire also reduces the food supply of wildlife and may burn them to death as well. After a serious fire it may take years for the woodland trees to recover and as long to recreate the proper habitat for the birds and mammals.



Careless logging can ruin small trees, and delay reforestation for many years. Note scars on bases of big trees caused by log cables.

Modern tree-cutting equipment may tempt workers to completely denude forest areas instead of selecting only harvestable trees.

The woodland that is subjected to intensive grazing is usually a poor place for wildlife. Constant trampling and disturbance by cows, sheep, goats, or horses is especially damaging to wild animals that live on or near the ground. Severe grazing, which destroys your trees, effects the existing conditions and the future conditions under which the wildlings live.

Studies by Charles A. Dambach in Ohio disclosed that eastern woodlands that are protected from grazing have twice as many species and numbers of plants as grazed woodlands. Under protected conditions are found about twice as many kinds of birds that nest on or near the ground and nearly twice as many kinds of mammals than are found in comparable woods that are grazed.

Harvesting trees as they mature here and there throughout the woods instead of cutting the whole lot at one time is especially valuable to wildlife.

An even-aged stand of trees has less variety of wild birds and mammals than a woodland that has a mixture of mature and young trees. The more variety in the habitat, the more variety in the wildlife it supports. Furthermore, openings where trees are felled are especially valuable to certain kinds of wild creatures. In them there is a variety of herbaceous and shrubby species along with young trees, and such spots make the woodland more desirable for grouse, rabbits, and other living things.

Some of the most useful, interesting, and valuable animals of woodlands are missing when there are no trees with hollow trunks or hollow limbs. For some kinds of wildlife, a hollow tree is essential. The raccoon, for instance, is rarely found where there is not a hollow tree for a den. Another fur bearer, the opossum, also holes up in hollow trees. Flying squirrels use the holes for homes, and so do other squirrels, the wood duck, screech owl, sparrow hawk, chipmunk, nuthatch, crested flycatcher, chickadee, bluebird, purple martin, and chimney swift.

In Europe, the foresters found that the woodlands composed of even-aged stands of a single tree species supported practically no wildlife. Injurious insects were also abundant. So much damage was done by forest insects that nest boxes were finally set up to attract birds. The birds fed upon and helped to control the harmful insects. Woodlands that compose a natural community of living things give us less trouble than artificial plantings. A few scattered den trees help a great deal toward maintaining a natural balance in our small woodlands. They are especially valuable near streams or near the margins of the woodland.

At the outer margin of the small woods, where it adjoins a field or pasture, a border of shrubs is especially valuable to wildlife. It is a principle of wildlife management that there are more wild creatures in the edge of a particular type of vegetation than within the type. Counts of birds and mammals show more species, and more individuals, along the shrubby margin of a woodland than within the woodland or in the adjacent pasture or field. Protecting the woodland edge thus increases wildlife. Often fruit and seed-bearing shrubs grow there naturally.

A simple method of producing shrub borders is to cut the trees within 20 to 30 feet of the woodland edge. Certain kinds of shrubs and other materials can be planted successfully along the margins of woodlands to improve them for wildlife.

The most valuable for the Eastern States are: Bicolor lespedeza (Lespedeza bicolor), bayberry (Myrica carolinensis), hazelnut or American filbert (Corylus americana), flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), highbush cranberry or American cranberrybush (Viburnum trilobum), the silkey cornel or the silky dogwood (Cornus amomum), and the Tatarian honeysuckle (Lonicera tatarica).

Squirrels are one of the most important game animals in small woodlands.

For the Western States: Squawbush or skunkbush (Rhus trilobata), American plum (Prunus demissa), the buffaloberry (Shepherdia argentea), tamarisk (Tamarix gallica), and Russian-olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia).

Nurserymen will be able to suggest other shrubs and trees that are adapted to one's own locality, that can fill a double or triple purpose in woodland or, indeed, on any country place, and that have fruits that are especially appealing to the particular birds a person might want to attract. Among the suggestions might be redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) that is relished by more than 50 species of birds, including the bobwhite, pheasants, and the mourning dove; the sumacs, whose berries attract more than 100 birds and mammals; the elderberry, food for more than 100 birds; and snowberry, eaten by 30 species of birds.

Such shrubs need not be costly, especially if one buys them in small sizes. They are not hard to plant and care for. Or, another suggestion is that neighbors exchange cuttings, slips, or roots of shrubs. What better project can neighbors or communities or organizations—better in the enhancement of friendship, beauty, and money values—carry out than one in which groups of persons buy and exchange shrubs for woodlands, roadsides, waste places, parks?

The precepts given here will assure an abundance of wild creatures in the small woodland. The woodland wildlife has many values. It is interesting and attractive. It provides a sport in the way of hunting. It yields a crop of fur-bearer pelts that brings cash to the landowner. Wild creatures provide a service that we often fail to appreciate because it is not obvious—they contribute to the natural balance that helps keep woodlands in condition.

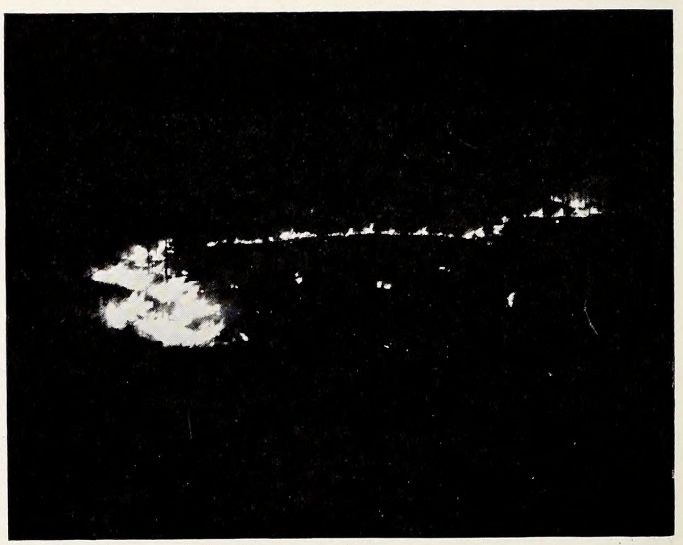
A few examples illustrate this important contribution by wildlife. In Northeastern forests, small mammals occur in remarkably large numbers. Studies by W. J. Hamilton, Jr., and David B. Cook show that these animals number about 100 to the acre. They eat an astonishing number of insects. Forest rodents—mice, chipmunks, and flying squirrels—have a diet that is 20 per cent insects, even though they are considered to be primarily plant feeders. The food of the woodland shrews and moles runs from 50 to 75 per cent insects. The insect-destroying value of such woodland mammals is high also because they are voracious creatures, many of them eating each day enough food to equal nearly one-third of their weight. Unlike most birds, they are resident creatures and are more or less active throughout the year.

In the Western States, the pandora moth attacks Jeffrey and ponderosa pines, and under some conditions it injures lodgepole pine. A large-scale attack was made upon lodgepole pine in 1937 in north-central Colorado. How much more severe the damage from the infestation might have been if wildlife had been absent is indicated by an investigation of the situation by N. D. Wygant. He found that "squirrels and bears were destroying many of the pupae . . . Bears had overturned many flat stones and the squirrels had dug cone-shaped holes in the ground in search of pupae and . . . Animal feces composed almost entirely of pandora moth eggs were found."

The value of birds in woodlands has been evident since the Department of Agriculture began its research on the food of wild animals of farm lands some 50 years ago. A large amount of food is consumed by birds, and injurious insects are among the items that compose the diet of many species. Investigators have found 5,000 ants in the stomach of a flicker, a nighthawk with a stomachful of 500 mosquitoes, and a yellow-billed cuckoo that had consumed 250 tent caterpillars.

Wildlife is a natural part of the small woodland. It belongs there just as the trees themselves, the duff on the woodland floor, and the rich soil beneath the trees. Without wildlife the small woodland is a poor place; with wildlife the small woodland is a better place for the trees, and a more productive, useful, and attractive place for people.

Note: Edward H. Graham is chief of the Biology Division of the Soil Conservation Service. Before he joined the Department in 1937, Dr. Graham was for years engaged in botanical studies for the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. He has written many scientific and technical papers on plant sciences and wildlife ecology, and is the author of several books, among them a treaties on the application of biological principles to the management of land, Natural Principles of Land Use.



Uncontrolled fires are the greatest hazard to small and large woodland areas.

A second article on Forests and Wildlife will appear in a forthcoming issue, also taken from the Yearbook of Agriculture.

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCE-O-GRAM

A ROUNDUP OF THE LATEST WILDLIFE NEWS

ONCE AGAIN THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S TWO-WAY RADIOS HAVE PAID OFF IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. A TAR HEEL SPORTSMAN REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANT FRANK WADE THAT TWO RABBIT HUNTERS WERE CONSISTENTLY ENGAGED IN PRE-SEASON RABBIT HUNTING, BUT WERE "WISE TO THE WAYS OF THE GAME PROTECTOR." WADE HANDED THE SPORTSMAN A PORTABLE TWO-WAY RADIO AND WAITED MILES FROM THE SCENE FOR A CALL. THE RABBIT HUNTERS TOOK TO THE FIELD, THINKING THAT NO PROTECTORS WERE ABOUT, THE SPORTSMAN FLASHED A REPORT TO WADE WHO MOVED IN AND MADE THE ARREST.

THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL PUPILS IN THE TAR HEEL STATE ARE BECOMING MEMBERS OF JUNIOR WILDLIFE CLUBS IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. MISS LUNETTE BARBER, A MEMBER OF THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S EDUCATION STAFF, IS ASSISTING TEACHERS WITH ORGANIZATION OF JUNIOR CLUBS. EACH MEMBER RECEIVES A MEMBERSHIP CARD, AND PLANS ARE BEING LAID TO PROVIDE EACH WITH AN IDENTIFICATION BUTTON. THE ENTHUSIASM OF YOUNGSTERS FOR WILDLIFE WORK IS ALMOST BOUNDLESS, AND MEMBERS ALREADY NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS.

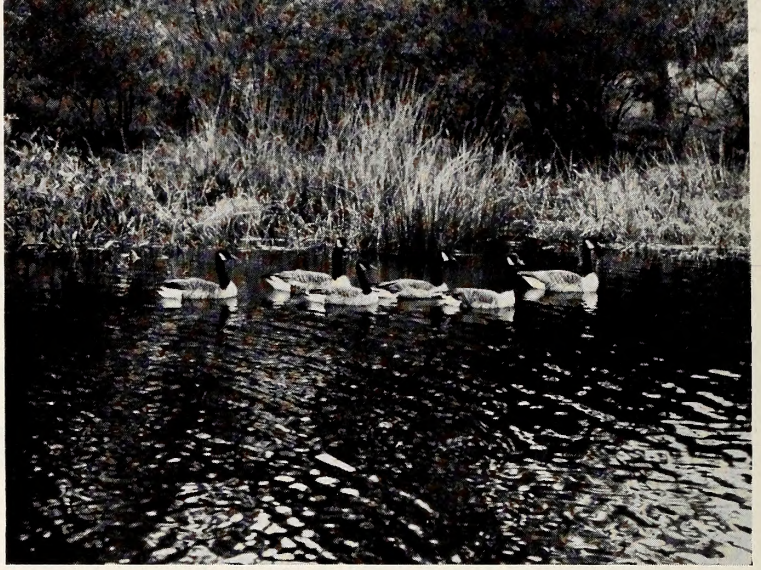
HUNDREDS OF TURKEYS ENDED THEIR DAYS ON THANKSGIVING TABLES IN NORTH CAROLINA THIS YEAR THANKS TO MANY TURKEY SHOOTS SPONSORED BY WILDLIFE CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. THE TURKEYS WERE PURCHASED BY THE CLUBS AND OFFERED AS PRIZES TO SPORTSMEN WHO COMPETED FOR THEM AT THE FIRING LINE.

THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION HAS ISSUED A WARNING TO QUAIL HUNTERS TO SHOOT ONLY THEIR LEGAL LIMIT OF BIRDS. THIS MEANS THAT WHEN A BIRD HUNTER HAS KILLED HIS LEGAL BAG OF BIRDS HE CANNOT LAWFULLY SHOOT BIRDS FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY WHO MAY LACK LUCK OR MARKSMANSHIP. HUNTING REGULATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO REGULATE THE TOTAL KILL OF BIRDS, AND A HUNTER MAY KILL ONLY EIGHT BIRDS PER DAY LEGALLY.

OF 5,000,000 BICOLOR LESPEDEZA SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO FARMERS AND COOPERATING SPORTSMEN TO BE USED AS WILDLIFE HABITAT PLANTINGS, ONLY 103,000 PLANTS HAD BEEN APPLIED FOR AT PRESS TIME. FARMERS WHO WISH TO RECEIVE THESE SEEDLINGS WILL RECEIVE FROM 1,000 TO 3,000 PLANTS FREE OF CHARGE, AND MAY OBTAIN THEM BY WRITING TO: FARM GAME PROJECT, WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION, BOX 2919, RALEIGH. THE SEEDLINGS WILL BE DELIVERED BY MAIL OR BY TRUCK IN TIME FOR PLANTING. PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED WITH SHIPMENTS TO INSURE PROPER UTILIZATION OF THE PLANTING FOR WILDLIFE FOOD AND COVER.

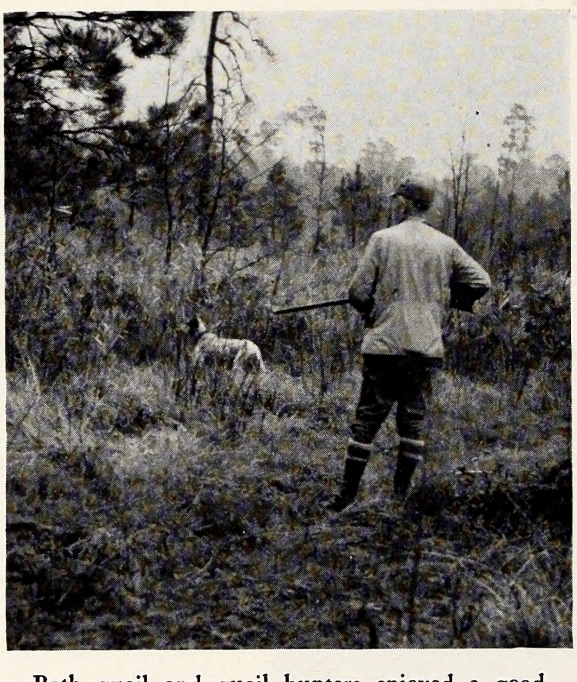
PERSONS WHO WISH TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THEIR LOCAL FISH AND GAME PROTECTOR WILL FIND HIS NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER IN THE JANUARY 1950 ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE. IN ADDITION TO LOCAL PROTECTORS, THE LIST WILL INCLUDE DISTRICT SUPERVISORS AND MEMBERS OF THE WILDLIFE PATROL.

Fishing was good—from the ocean piers at the coast to the mountain streams in the western part of the state.



Waterfowl became more abundant in the northern breeding grounds . . .

Wild turkeys were still relatively scarce, and only gobblers could be taken.



Both quail and quail hunters enjoyed a good season . . .

LOOKIN
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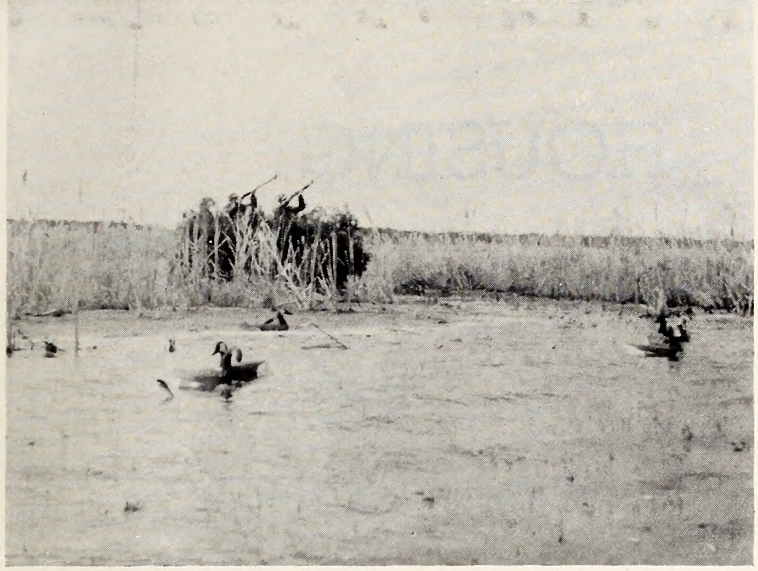
A Resume
Seasons in N

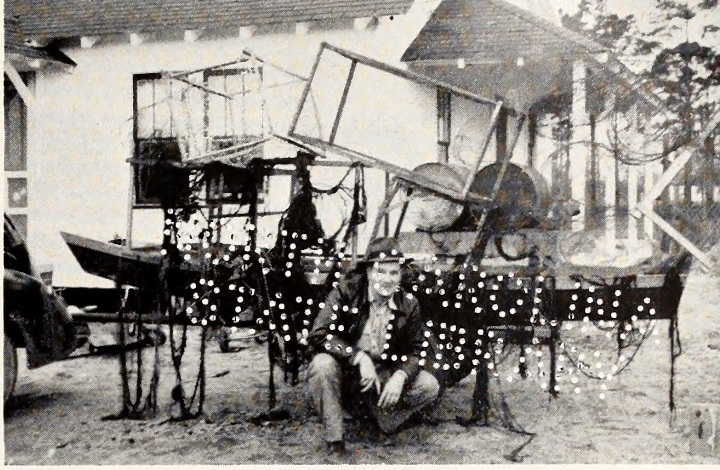
(W.R.C.

Doves were scarcer, but dove hunters enjoyed the first part of a split season.

Deer were plentiful and hun
killed many.



. . . and Tar Heel nimrods enjoyed more liberal bag limits.



Unsportsman-like activities had to be curtailed by law enforcement (see below).

G BACK
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WILDLIFE
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orth Carliona

ff Photos)

. . . and thousands of rabbit hunters enjoyed good sport.

Fish and game law violators paid the penalty for their transgressions.

g good despite a disease which

Public opinion steadily arose against devices such as this bear trap.

HOUSING PROJECT for WOOD DUCKS

Wood duck houses are simple to make and easy to place.

Here is a Project Tar Heel Sportsmen can "get their teeth" into.

The payoff: More Wood Ducks in the bag limit.

(Reprinted Courtesy OUTDOOR LIFE)

By Arthur F. Joy and Stuart Critcher

MASSACHUSETTS hunters can look forward to an open season on wood ducks within a few years, thanks to efforts being made by the state Department of Conservation to relieve an unusual housing shortage. Man-made nesting boxes, set up by the department and by co-operating sportsmen's clubs, are helping to bring back the tasty little woodies, which federal regulations now protect in many states.

The man behind the comeback plan in Massachusetts is Robert H. Johnson, director of the Division of Fisheries and Game, Bureau of Wildlife Research and Management. Headquarters for the project are at the Phillips Wildlife Research Laboratory, Upton, Massachusetts.

It all started several years ago when conservation men noticed that the wood ducks were getting badly cramped for nesting space. Apparently because of the 1938 hurricane and extensive forest cutting, the woodies simply couldn't find enough of the tree hollows they fancy for homes. Like humans under similar conditions, they were doubling up—dumping their eggs in the few suitable places they could locate. When forty-one eggs were found in a single nest, it showed the birds were really hard up.

As an experiment, a few nesting boxes were built and set up in trees near marshes and ponds, and a five-year check revealed that 43 per cent of them were used by wood ducks. That percentage wasn't good enough, so Johnson hit on the idea of setting the boxes on poles right out in the water of the marshes. That way, raccoons could not raid the nests for eggs, and the ducks were safe from squirrels, owls, and other enemies or competitors. Occupancy rose to nearly 90 per cent.

Boxes are made up of rough, unplaned lumber, about one-inch stock, and nailed to cedar posts about six feet above the water. They are easily erected in winter, through holes in ice.

Cost: About a Nickel a Duck

Counting the cost of the box, labor, and other expense, and estimating the life of a box to be about eight years, Johnson figured that Massachusetts sportsmen could get a brood of ten to a dozen wood ducks for 55 or 60 cents. He sent letters to sportsmen's clubs all over the state, telling about the experiment and offering to supply nesting boxes at cost ($1.50 each). Many clubs have gone along on the idea, with state conservation men helping club members to set up the nests.

For 1949 the Department of Conservation itself planned to set up 2,000 nesting boxes in various parts of the state, and the sportsmen's clubs will probably match that figure. The Massachusetts program is 75 per cent federally financed under provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act, the remaining funds coming from the state.

Other states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maryland, have cocked an interested eye at the Massachusetts project and either have started similar programs or plan to do so in the near future.

WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX

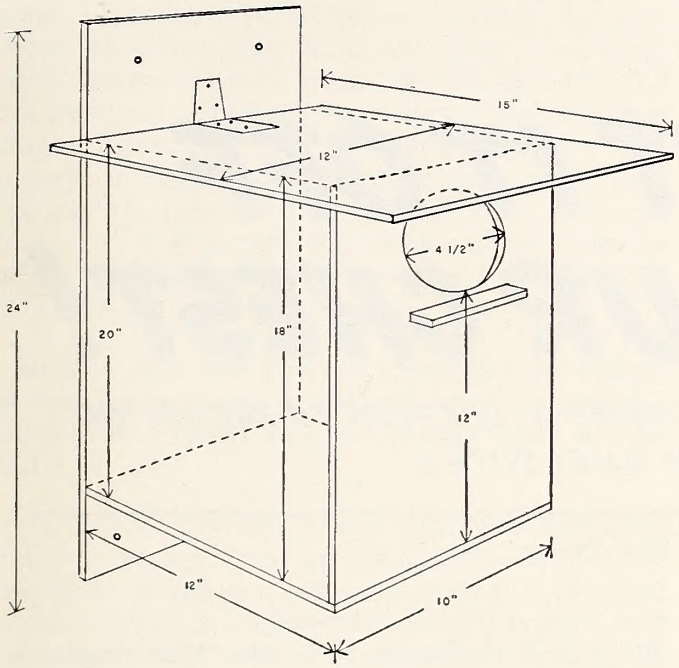


FIGURE 1

(Editor's note)

If this idea works in other states, it will work in North Carolina. Stuart Critcher, Game Resources Specialist for the N. C. Wildlife Commission believes that occupancy of nesting boxes for wood ducks in N. C. may go as high as 90 per cent. Critcher writes the following:

Nesting boxes may be constructed from a number of materials, such as surplus ammunition cases, shipping crates or nail kegs. For durability and dimensional correctness, however, it will prove more satisfactory to use rough cypress or white cedar about one inch in thickness. Weathered lumber is desirable, if it is sound, as woodies prefer boxes that are unpainted and natural in appearance. Figure 1 shows a satisfactory type nesting box that can be constructed rapidly and economically. Overall dimensions may vary, but these points should be remembered: The inside measurements of the bottom should not be smaller than 10 x 10 inches; the diameter of the opening should be at least 4 inches, and preferably 4½ inches; and the opening should be approximately 12 inches from the bottom. To facilitate proper drainage, several ½ inch holes should be drilled into the bottom. About 3 inches of dry sawdust or hay should be placed in the bottom. This is used as nesting material and also serves as a covering for the incubating eggs. Hinged or removable tops make cleaning easier, as it is advisable to renew the nesting material each spring. A small strip of wood may be placed under the entrance to act as a step when the bird enters the box.

Until recently, about 15 or 16 per cent occupancy of nesting boxes was expected, but latest reports indicate that as high as 90 per cent occupancy may be expected. Formerly it was the practice to erect boxes in trees around or near ponds, lakes or marshes. A new technique worked out by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation of placing the boxes on cedar poles out in the open water or marsh, is responsible for this increased utilization. Boxes should be placed on poles or snags about ten or twelve feet above marsh or water level, and away from areas of human activity. Any time during the fall or winter is satisfactory for putting up the boxes. If this is postponed until spring, they should be up no later than March first.

With new farm ponds and lakes being constructed every day, a real opportunity has presented itself to every sportsman, 4-H Club, Boy Scout Troop, and Wildlife Club in North Carolina. Here is a project that can be undertaken simply and easily, and one which can produce visible results.

Wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees. Where few or none are available, substitutes such as this are easy and inexpensive to devise.

Note to Subscribers: Due to unavoidable circumstances, many of our readers are receiving more than one copy of WILDLIFE each month. Complimentary copies are being sent to barber shops, doctor's offices, and other places where the public will see them—and be encouraged to subscribe. Many subscribers join wildlife clubs and pay for additional subscriptions without notifying our circulation department. These and other factors cause some duplication. If you are getting more than one paid copy, notify us so that we can extend your total subscription time. If you are getting an extra copy, give it to a friend who might wish to subscribe!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!! HOW ABOUT IT??

IS IT TRUE?? HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO—

GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!

EDITORIAL COMMENT, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ANECDOTES

CONDUCTED BY WIN DONAT

I wonder if you noticed the next to the last page of the official abstract of this year's hunting laws and regulations? Do you remember what was asked of you? In the event this page did not register, it contains a request for information concerning the amount of game you saw in the field this year and ample space has been provided for you to keep these records. Records are confusing things to most of us, but the amount of game seen in your favorite hunting territory becomes of vital importance when the shortage of game is acute, and it becomes necessary to do something about it. The little account we ask you to keep is not a trivial thing—from it we can determine population trends, variations in range and the hunting pressure, as well as the need for increased management. All these combine to help us to fulfill our motto "More Sport for More People—Equal Opportunity for All." We know that a great majority of our sportsmen friends have a sincere desire to do something to help. Sending in these reports is a contribution of real value.—W.D.

Mr. N. V. S. of Gastonia, N. C., writes: "I would like to get definite information as to whether one has to have a hunting license in order to take his dog out in the field before season opens and give him exercise . . ."

A portion of the law dealing with this subject reads as follows: ". . . It shall be lawful for individuals and organized field trial clubs or associations for the protection of game, to run trials or train dogs at any time: Provided, that no shotgun shall be used and that no game birds or game animals shall be taken during the closed season by reason thereof . . ." It would seem then, that it is permissible to exercise dogs and that a license is not necessary as long as game is not injured thereby.

Mr. G. T. Y. of Charlotte, N. C., asks, "What procedure is necessary in order to become a game warden?"

Any person desiring a position as a Fish and Game Protector with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission should file an application with the Commission at its Raleigh office. When an opening occurs, the applicants are notified that examinations will be held at a certain time and place, and the selection is made from the most successful candidates.

Mr. J. E. L., Salisbury, N. C., wrote an interesting letter supporting the bow and arrow as sporting weapons and asks why they are not legal for use in North Carolina.

For this sportsman and the many others who are just as sincere in their contentions, let us get the record straight with respect to our position on the bow and arrow. House Bill No. 381, presented in the 1949 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly, contained a change to the present law to include the bow and arrow as lawful weapons for taking game. This change was not passed and, of course, nothing can be done until some future Assembly makes the change. Practically everything that has been said in support of bow and arrow hunting has merit. It cannot be denied that such hunting contains many opportunities for good conservation.

Mr. Wm. A., of Philadelphia, Pa., asks, "What are the regulations regarding the transportation of game out of the state by nonresidents, and what forms are necessary . . .?"

Partial quotation from the law covering this point follows: ". . . A person who is nonresident of the

State and the holder of a valid nonresident hunting license, may, under a permit issued by the Commissioner, transport within the State, or from a point within to a point without, during the open season therefor, game birds and game animals or parts thereof lawfully taken by him, but he shall not transport out of the State during any one open season more than two male deer and two wild turkeys, or during one calendar week more than two day's bag limit of other game animals and game birds . . ." The permits should be secured from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Box 2919, Raleigh, N. C.

Mr. W. C. G., of New Bern, N. C., asks, "How does a person go about getting a permit to own a side arm in our state. Also can you take it (pistol) along duck hunting to kill wounded fowl?"

Permits to buy and possess pistols or side arms must be obtained from the clerk of the court of the county in which you reside. A permit is required if the weapon is acquired by gift. Of course, side arms may not be carried in a concealed manner off the owner's premises. Federal waterfowl regulations prohibit the use of a rifle or pistol while hunting ducks or geese.

Retraction

Our answer to the "hunting from a boat" question last month has caused some reaction, but none of the questions that have been raised have been directed to this column!

You recall we said, "It is unlawful to hunt upland game birds or animals from a boat of any type regardless of how it is propelled . . ." This statement should have continued to say: ". . . between the hours of sunset and sunrise."

To clarify the issue: All game, including waterfowl, may be hunted from a boat during the legal daytime hours for such hunting, provided that the boat is propelled only by poling, paddling, rowing, or drifting; and provided that if an outboard motor is carried, the motor be detached and therefore not usable when such hunting takes place. In waterfowl hunting an outboard or motor or sailboat may be used to pick up dead or injured game, but may not be used to shoot cripples. (W.D.)

Night hunting of deer in N. C. is illegal. This photo was posed and taken by District Supervisor Tom Rollins, Sanford.

AUTO CONFISCATED IN NIGHT DEER HUNTING CONVICTION

(Photos by Margaret Fisler)

A precedent was established in Recorder's Court at Raeford recently when Judge Henry McDermid seized an automobile used in unlawful deer hunting. Above are (L. to R.) William G. McConnaughey, Fish and Game Protector, Red Springs, H. L. Rose, Raeford, (with Nip and Tuck, hounds used to break deer hunting case) and Protector Roy Bostick, with seized car.

Above are law enforcement officers who arrested eight hunters for hunting deer at night (L. to R.) Bruce McLean, Roy Bostick, A. L. Adcox, Bob Hammer, T. L. Faircloth, and William McConnaughey. The arrests were made as part of the Wildlife Resources Commission's all-out campaign to curtail illegal deer hunting.

DUAL WILDLIFE MEET HELD AT NAGS HEAD

More than 250 sportsmen and wildlife technicians registered at the Carolinian Hotel at Nags Head between October 30 and November 2 to attend a dual meeting of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Game Commissioners. Show above is the registration booth where delegates to the two conventions received identification badges, programs, free literature, banquet tickets, and general information. The Federation meeting was first to convene, starting off with a barbecue on October 30 at P. K. Gravely's Catcoe Lodge near the bridge across Currituck Sound. On Sunday night, October 30, the Federation held its annual dinner in the dining room of the Carolinian. P. K. Gravely of Rocky Mount acted as toastmaster. At a ceremony later in the evening Miss Joyce Mattox, Raleigh, secretary to Ross O. Stevens (Executive Secretary of the Federation), was voted "Miss Wildlife of 1949."

On Tuesday night, November 1, a joint banquet of the Federation and the Commissioners Association was held after a day of formal technical wildlife sessions. The Association meeting ended Wednesday November 2 after a series of technical discussions on problems involving fish and wildlife management.

The Wildlife Federation held its annual election. Above are J. W. Overton, Greenville, District Vice President; Roland McClamroch, Chapel Hill, re-elected president; W. T. Norman, Fayetteville, District Vice-president; Ross O. Stevens, Raleigh, Executive Secretary. Not shown are Frank Marbry, Badin, Secretary, and Kenneth Putnam, Chapel Hill, Treasurer.

1950 Fishing Regulations have been set, and copies of Abstracts for next year will be available at license dealers on January 1. There were few changes over this year's rules.

In the photo at lower left are: (L. to R.) J. W. Overton; Forest Heath, Raleigh, Past President; W. T. Norman, Fayetteville; President Roland McClamroch; Past President P. K. Gravely; L. T. Gallop, Elizabeth City, President Pasquotank County Club; Executive Secretary Ross O. Stevens; Former Secretary Fred S. Barkalow, Raleigh.

VIRGINIA - CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL MEET

New Field Trial Group Gets Off to Good Start With 103 Dogs Entered In First Event

(Photos By Margaret Fisler)

Kieth's Beau Diamond, owned by L. E. Kieth, Newport News, Virginia, won top honors as individual champion at three-day event held at Enfield October 28, 29, and 30. Beau Diamond is a Lewellyn Setter.

Judges for the contest were: (L.) C. H. Black, Charlotte, N. C., and C. H. Wood, Hampton, Virginia. Gun dogs cover a lot of ground during trials, and judges need horses to keep up with events.

"The Grim Reaper," a beautiful pointer owned by W. Frank Black, Charlotte, N. C., was handled by V. B. Gilmore, pictured here with the Reaper.

Bill Grove, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Grove, Halifax, N. C., poses with Duke, an English Setter owned by Hunter Grove, Caledonia Kennels.

There were three main classes in the three-day event: Open Derby, Amateur Shooting Dog, and Open Shooting Dog. $500.00 in prizes were given to first three place winners in latter event. At least six groups in N. C. are holding field trials. These could be combined in a State organization to determine state champions and get national recognition.

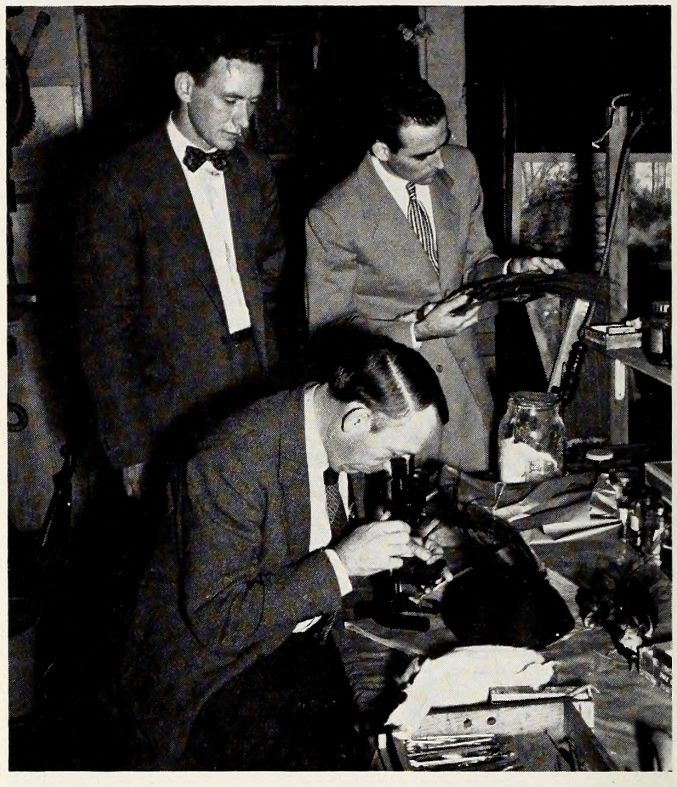
COMMISSION APPOINTS LAW ENFORCEMENT CHIEF

G. A. Jones, Jr., Chief, Law Enforcement Division.

At a meeting at Nags Head the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission appointed G. A. Jones, Jr. to serve as Chief of the Law Enforcement Division. A resident of Raleigh, Jones is a native of Franklin, N. C., where he finished high school and later went to Brevard Junior College. Jones transferred from Brevard College to Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, and from there tranferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Law in June, 1949. He was admitted to the North Carolina Bar in August, 1949, and is licensed to practice law.

In 1940 Jones enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and in 1941 graduated from the Naval Air Training School at Pensacola, Florida. Later he served in the Pacific, Caribbean, African, and European theaters as a Navy pilot, and was separated from the service in 1945 with a commission as Lt. Commander, a rank which he now holds in the Organized Air Reserves.

Jones' primary interest is in the causes lying behind law violations. He has had a lifelong interest in hunting and fishing as well as general outdoor activities. His duties with the Wildlife Resources Commission began November 1.



Feathers on the hat shown above caused a furor when a resident of Florida saw an ad in a Raleigh newspaper offering "curled egret feathers" as an incentive to buy a hat. The Florida reader reported the incident to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. The Service contacted its North Carolina representative in Washington, N. C. The hat was traced, the feathers examined, and the case was closed. The feathers were beautiful, but they came from an unknown bird—not an egret. (Photo by Margaret Fisler)

Thousands of Tar Heel State Fair vistitors saw the Wildlife Commission's Exhibit at the 1949 State Fair. Above are a few young wildlife enthusiasts. Plans call for a greater exhibit next year. (Photo by Margaret Fisler)

2,000 HUNTING ACCIDENTS
—*MUST THEY HAPPEN?*

Following an exhaustive survey of shooting accidents covering all of the United States and Canada, the New England Outdoor Writers' Association has been able to predict what the typical gunning mishap will be like this fall, when about 2,000 of them are due to occur.

The offender, says the NEOWA, will be a resident deer hunter, aged about 17 and cold sober. While gunning in legal open season he will shoot at and wound a fellow hunter wearing at least one item of red clothing, under the impression that he is shooting at an antlered buck. Following the mishap, no formal report will be filed with state game authorities, the victim will not collect for injuries sustained, no public hearing will be held to determine the cause of the accident, and the guilty gunner will not lose his hunting license. The mishap will occur in a state which advocates "education in safe gun handling" as the best means of preventing shooting accidents—and which spends less than $200 a year on its safety education program.

The climax of this mythical case comes when the fish and game head hears about the accidents for the first time—by reading about it in his local newspaper.

Dr. H. L. Pierson, of Hampton, N. H., chairman of the NEOWA's Hunting Accident Research Committee, paints this grim picture after studying reports received from game department heads representing hunting areas throughout the North American continent. Condensing the survey into percentage figures, his report further reveals an alarming lack of interest in the 2,000 or more shooting accidents that take place during every hunting season, or in steps taken to prevent them.

Dr. Pierson reports that while all game department directors stated their belief in safety education, only 34% of them reported any sort of safety education program in operation. Those having plans executed them with appropriations ranging from a meager $200 or less to the many thousands which the state of Pennsylvania spends from the $215,000 alloted annually to conservation education.

More alarming is the complete lack of knowledge admitted by department heads of hunting accidents within their own state or province. Typical replies were: "Our wildlife agency executes no control over hunting accidents and no reports are assembled by us"; "No reports required to any department"; "Regret that we haven't made a compilation of this type of data"; "Our information comes from what the wardens hear or see and what we read in the papers."

Only 63% were able to supply any statistics and much of that data was admittedly based on guesswork and hearsay. The majority recognized their shortcomings and were seeking correction through the state legislatures while others treated the subject lightly. The fish and game head of one large state reported: "The department has not greatly interested itself in hunting accidents due to concentrating on matters considered more important by the general public and license buyer."

The data collected by the NEOWA failed to unearth any specific solution to the problem but it did turn a glaring spotlight on the inadequacy of the individual states and provinces to cope with the situation. The overwhelming agreement among the fish and game agencies that safety education was the only sound means of reducing the accident rate was revealed in direct contrast to the practice of their beliefs. Those departments having any sort of safety education program were in a rare minority.

Deer and big game hunting accounted for most of the accidents followed by rabbits, upland birds and duck hunting in that order. The old grumble that out-of-state hunters caused most of the accidents was disproved when the survey revealed that resident hunters caused 95% of the shooting accidents.

In seeking to find any pattern between age of the hunter and the accident rate, the results were negative by 58%. The departments attributing accidents to any particular age group named the 'teen-agers as the worst offenders, however. Yet a majority of the states place age restrictions upon hunting privileges.

The lack of control over hunting accidents came to light when 87% admitted that they did not require a report of accidents regardless of severity, which accounts for the lack of information possessed by the fish and game departments.

Only 8% of the states and provinces place any financial responsibility upon the person causing a hunting accident and only 35% of the fish and game agencies have the legal power to revoke the hunting license of the careless nimrod. In 92% no public hearings are held on hunting accidents.

A further inconsistency appeared when 76% of the department heads stated they believed that red hunting garb protected the wearer while hunting, and then revealed that only 22% of the agencies require hunters to wear red clothing as a protective measure.

When asked if they personally felt that shooting accidents might be reduced by requiring hunting

license applicants to pass an examination to prove fitness to handle firearms, 39% said "yes" and 61% voted "no". Many of the "no" voters added footnotes commenting on the shortcomings of such a test.

The department heads were asked to indicate their personal opinion of the most effective methods of preventing shooting accidents. By a three-to-one majority, "education" took first place. "More severe penalties" was rated second and "wearing of red clothing" third. "Eye examination" and "gun handling examination" rated fourth and fifth, respectively.

The report showed that the most frequent cause of hunting accidents is "person mistaken for game," number two was "not knowing the gun was loaded" and the third was "carrying a loaded gun in the car." Hunting with the safety off and position of the hunter tied for fourth place. Following along in order were heavy concentration of hunters, faulty or obsolete firearms, mental incompetence, poor visibility, falling with loaded gun, deceptive clothing, faulty eyesight, and last place goes to under the influence of liquor.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE NEWS NOTES

Millions For California's Wildlife

California's fish and wildlife resources received a financial shot in the arm at a recent meeting of the State Wildlife Conservation Board as members authorized expenditures of $4,470,361 for conservation projects. This is by far the largest amount ever appropriated for fish and game restoration by any state.

Adopting recommendations of Consultant Seth Gordon, internationally famous wildlife conservationist and former executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the board earmarked $2,380,436 of its three-year capitalization of nine million dollars, derived from the State's pari-mutuel horse racing receipts, for the acquisition and development of waterfowl management areas. These areas will provide public shooting grounds and waterfowl feeding areas to alleviate damage to agricultural crops. An appropriation of $1,363,700 was made for the construction and maintenance of fish hatcheries, and $726,225 was authorized for the maintenance, development, and construction of fish ladders and screens, game farms, and for quail projects and other similar work.

Top priority has been given to waterfowl and trout programs in the allocation of these funds.

The world's largest sheep, the Argali, lands on his horns instead of on his feet, when he jumps.

Dividing Fishery Management Is Unwise:

Many of the Hoover Commission recommendations are excellent and would lead to greater economy and efficiency in the management of natural resources. When the Commission advocates that commercial fishery responsibilities be transferred from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Department of Commerce, however, it is making a recommendation that could lead only to decreased efficiency and increased expense, the Wildlife Management Institute believes.

Dividing the management of commercial fishes from sport species is as ridiculous as it is impossible. Many of the same species are taken both for sport and for commerce. The striped bass, in most places, is more important as a recreational asset than as a commercial resource. The Commission proposal, if carried into law, immediately would widen the breach between the sport angler and the commercial fisherman. Separation under different administrative bureaus would increase costs and is unnecessary. Problems in the management of all fish and game are so closely interrelated that they should and must be handled as a unit.

Fishery activities are better financed than they ever were before the consolidation with wildlife. Appropriations are increasing, and state and federal research operations are expanding. Sportsmen, both hunters and anglers, have been helping commercial fishermen fight conservation battles, and unprecedented progress has been achieved under a joint banner. These people are not to be blamed if they question the motives behind the proposed divorce or if they now are told that our fishery resources belong to only one segment of the population.

On a recent informal forum of the National Fisheries Institute meeting in Chicago, Director Albert M. Day of the U. S. Fish and Widlife Service stated that split administration of fishery resources would be virtually impossible. Congressman Schuyler Otis Bland of Virginia, chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has registered vigorous opposition to the proposal.

What is vitally needed in the natural resource program of this nation is unity, closer cooperation among all groups and individuals concerned, and better coordination of effort toward a common goal. We need consolidation and a united front rather than segregation and lack of understanding.

The troublesome English "sparrow" is not a sparrow at all. He is a member of the weaver bird family of Europe.

* * *

According to experiments conducted by a Columbia University professor, the ten-top-ranking animals, in the order of their respective intelligence are: chimpanzee, orangutan, gorilla, monkey, dog, cat, raccoon, elephant, pig and horse.

Outdoor Notes

By JOE AUSTELL SMALL

No Horn, Thanks!

It happened on a western dude ranch. The cowboy in charge of horses for a ride up into the mountains asked a sweet young thing: "Do you want a saddle with a horn, Madam?"

"Gracious, no!" she replied. Then, more thoughtfully, "We aren't going to ride through traffic, are we?"

Care of Deer Hides

Literally tons of deer hides are wasted each season because many sportsmen know nothing about how to save them. Buckskin makes excellent gloves, jackets, etc.

The skinned hide should be stretched out, flesh side up, and sprinkled with two or three pounds of salt. Skins not treated will decay quickly. Wet skins should be stretched and dried in a shady, airy place. Those exposed to strong rays of the sun, or put before a fire, will dry unevenly, causing the hide to become brittle. Such is the case, also, of hides not treated with salt.

Well, Doggone!

A. M. Ward, a farmer near Mineola, Missouri, got fed up with so many "No Hunting or Fishing" signs that he placed the following item in the county paper: FREE HUNTING AND FISHING permitted on my farm. One watermelon will be given with every four pounds of fish caught and one watermelon will be given with every four squirrels killed." If there were only more farmers like Mr. Ward —and more good sportsmen who wouldn't take advantage of his kindness with reckless behavior on his farm . . .

Simple Reasoning

Johnny Blanton, of Spartanburg, S. C., can reason as well as the next guy. When his dad bought the boy a bird dog pup, Johnny named it "Sixdo." When asked why, he explained, "Boy down the street calls his dog 'Fido.' Mine's one better!"

Accident Afield

California's most unusual hunting mishap occurred when a sleeping deer hunter awakened in his car with a start when the alarm on his clock sounded. He upset the clock, it struck the trigger of his six-shooter, the bullet went through a spare gasoline can, the blast set fire to the gas, and the hunter burned to death.

New Scope

Every hunter in the country will be glad to know that there's a new, high quality, low cost scope for high powered rifles on the market. Completely weatherproof, the new 2x scope has several outstanding new features. An objective attachment will be available soon to pep the scope up to 4x, 6x, and 8x—something also new in the scope field. There are so many interesting details on this new scope that they can't be told here. You can get all information by writing Dillon's Gun Shop, Dept. WS, 4798 West 35th St., Cleveland 9, Ohio.

And, if you think scopes are only for still shots, lend an ear brother! I thought so, too, until I got hold of Stith's Bear Cub scope. Now I consider it a must for effective running shots. Like the Dillon scope, it offers a wide field—and clear vision—it's perfect! I just returned from a trip to Mexico where I bowled over two deer at 260 and 309 yards respectively with this little 2x Bear Cub scope—in two shots, mind you! It's a dilly. They'll send you all info on it and its big brothers if you write Stith Mounts, Dept. W11, 500 Transit Tower, San Antonio 5, Texas.

Old Duck

How old do ducks get? A male black duck raised at Michigan's Mason state game farm made a near record by reaching the age of 10 years—a ripe old age for ducks. The bird was raised at the game farm in 1936, released at Munuscong in the upper peninsula in 1937, and brought down by a hunter's gun in the fall of 1946 at East Quoque, N. Y.

Fight With Grizzly

A 61-year-old Montana sheepherder is suffering from wounds inflicted in a fight with a wounded, enraged grizzly bear which twice left the man for dead only to return and attack him again.

The injured man was identified as Broadhurst Smith of Dupuyer, Montana. Great Falls hospital authorities said his scalp was torn from his head in the battle.

Smith said he spotted the animal among his sheep about midnight and fired his rifle at it. The bullet only wounded the grizzly and it charged Smith before he could reload his gun.

How's Your Plant Growing, Bub?

Tiny green plants grow inside some one-celled animals. They use the waste gas produced by the animals. The plant, in return, produces oxygen and sugar, which helps the animal to live.

Short Shorts

The young elk is called a calf, the young deer a fawn, and the young antelope a kid.

The porcupine cannot "shoot" his quills. His defense consists of erecting his quills and striking a strong sidewise blow with his tail.

The "demon of the seas" is the killer whale or Orca. It has the appetite of a hog, the cruelty of a wolf, the courage of a bulldog and the most terrible jaws afloat.

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THESE SHOULD REFRESH THE MEMORY OF SOME.....
AFTER AN OUTING
I'LL CUT ACROSS AND HEAD THAT RABBIT OFF!
THAT RAIN SOAKED WHEAT FIELD
HOW WAS I TO KNOW WHAT WAS MOVING IN TH' BUSHES?
THAT CLEANS OUT THE COVEY!
NUMBER 29 - I'LL JUST MAKE IT AN EVEN 30 BEFORE QUITTING!
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ONE OF THE FARMER'S BEST LAYERS
TO GET A BREAK YOURSELF — GIVE THE FARMER ONE!
NICE GOING, FELLOW — WHO YA' GONNA' BRAG TO ??
"THE SPORTSMAN"

Carl Spencer—Salisbury Post

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